

# Life of Muhammad

- ◆ Muhammad adopted `Alî.
- ◆ The Quraysh had vested interests in the old worship; and their prestige was involved in its maintenance.
- ◆ Amidst all these trials Muhammad never wavered. Full of the intensest confidence in his mission, he worked steadily on.
- ◆ But persecution only added to the strength of the new faith.
- ◆ Muhammad's preaching betokened a serious revolutionary movement.

# Life of Muhammad

- ◆ The Quraysh were now thoroughly alarmed. Their power and prestige were at stake. They were the custodians of the idols whom Muhammad threatened with destruction. Muhammad's preaching was intensely democratic, it boded no good to their exclusive privileges.
- ◆ They accordingly decided upon an organized system of persecution.
- ◆ Muhammad, owing to the protection of Abû Tâlib, was, for the time, exempt from immediate violence.

# Life of Muhammad

- ◆ The others were thrown into prison, starved, and then beaten with sticks.
- ◆ Profoundly afflicted by the suffering of his disciples, Muhammad advised them to seek refuge in the neighboring Christian Kingdom of Abyssinia, where ruled a pious sovereign.
- ◆ The Qurayn were furious at the escape of their victims, and sent deputies to the king to demand the delivery of these refugees that they might be put to death.

# Life of Muhammad

- ◆ Ja`far, son of Abû Tâlib, spoke thus:  
“O king, we were plunged in the depth of ignorance and barbarism; We adored idols, we live in unchastity; we ate dead bodies, and we spoke abominations; we disregarded every feeling of humanity. We disregarded every feeling of humanity (...) God raised among us a man who called us to the unity of God, he forbade us the worship of idols; and enjoined us to speak the truth, to be faithful to our trust, to be merciful, and to regard the rights of neighbors.”

---

# *The Star 53: 1-18*

In the name of God the Compassionate the Caring

---

By the star as it falls, your companion has not lost his way nor is he deluded. He does not speak out of desire. This is a revelation taught him by one of great power and strength that stretched out over while on the highest horizon— then drew near and came down two bows' lengths or nearer. He revealed to his servant what he revealed. The heart did not lie in what it saw. Will you then dispute with him his vision? He saw it descending another time at the lote tree of the furthest limit. There was the garden of sanctuary when something came down over the lote tree, enfolding. His gaze did not turn aside nor go too far. He had seen the signs of his lord, great signs.

# Life of Muhammad

- ◆ The Prophet ever rests the truth of his divine commission entirely upon his teachings. He never resorts to the miraculous to assert his influence.
- ◆ Several times the Quraysh sent deputations to Abu Talib, asking him to stop his nephew from preaching against their religion.
- ◆ “O my uncle, if they placed the sun on my right hand and the moon on my left, to force me to renounce my work, verily I would not desist there from until God made manifest his Cause, or I perished in the attempt.”

# Life of Muhammad

- ◆ And the death of Abû Talib, became the signal for the Quraysh to redouble their persecutions. Muhammad was forced to emigrate to Medina it was the *Hijra* in 622.
- ◆ *Ansâr* (Helpers)
- ◆ *Muhâjirîn* (Emigrants)

# Constitution of Medina

- ◆ The state of peace and war shall be common to all Muslims.
- ◆ The Jews of Yathrib shall form with the Muslims one composite nation. They shall practice their religion as freely as the Muslims. The Jews shall join the Muslims in defending Yathrib against all enemies.
- ◆ All true Muslims shall hold in abhorrence every man guilty of crime.
- ◆ All future disputes shall be referred to the Prophet.

# Three battles against the Meccans

- ◆ In 624 their first major encounter brought the victory to the Muslims at Badr.
- ◆ In 625 there was the battle of Uhud where the Muslims were defeated by the Meccans.
- ◆ In 627 the siege of Medina was neutralized by the ditch. It is called the campaign of the Ditch (627).
- ◆ During all these battles, the Muslims had to kill some Jews who betrayed them.

# The Hostility of the Jews

- ◆ No kindness or generosity, however, on the part of the Prophet would satisfy the Jews.
- ◆ They soon broke off and ranged themselves on the side of the enemies of the new faith.
- ◆ By their superior education and intelligence, by their union with the party of the *Munâfikîn* (the Disaffected), and by the general unanimity which prevailed among them the Jews formed a most dangerous element within the federated State.
- ◆ In 628 a truce was signed at Hudaybiyya.